"ONE OF THE BEST NEW SERIES I'VE READ IN A LONG TIME. A DARKLY FUNNY BUT DEEPLY SINCERE SUPERHERO NOIR."
—SCOTT SNYDER (WYTCHES, NOCTERRA)
Local Man™
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
image
SEELEY
FLEECS
SIMPSON
SOBREIRO
AMF!
ISSUE 4, MAY 2023

image™ comics presents:

"LOCAL MAN"

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RESTRICTED AREA
NO TRESPASSING
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN
WARNING
ELECTRIFIED

WARNING
ELECTRIFIED
SECURITY FENCE

PEPPER!! NO!

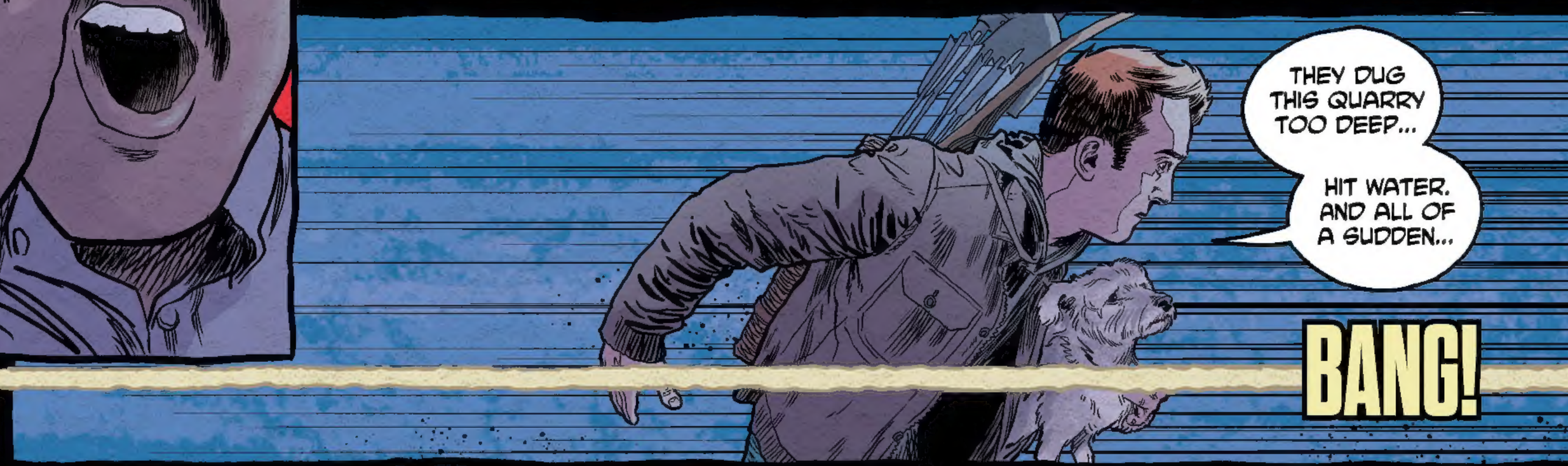
BUDDY, TAKE IT FROM A GUY WHO ONCE WENT TOE TO TOE WITH VOLTA,
YOU DO NOT WANT TO TINKLE ON THAT FENCE.
THAT WOMAN DID NOT--
OH, GODDAMMIT.
RESTRICTED AREA:
NO TRESPASSING
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN

RESTRICTED AREA
NO TRESPASSING BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON
WARNING
ELECTRIFIED SECURITY FENCE
...
TSSS
WARNING
ELECTRIFIED SECURITY FENCE
THIS PLACE HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE THE 80S.
POLICE CHIEF MENTIONED HE'D SEEN LIGHTS IN THE SKY HERE.
FRIGHTSIDE SAID HODAG WAS OBSESSED WITH IT...
THOUGHT IT WAS SOME KIND OF SECRET VILLAIN LAIR OR...
WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER, KIDS WOULD COME HERE TO SHOOT GUNS AND DO DRUGS.
DEALERS CAME HERE TOO.
I BUSTED THEM ALL AS CROSSJACK.
...QUALITY OF COPS IN THIS TOWN HAS GONE WAY DOWN SINCE I LEFT.
SO, WHAT IF THE DEALERS ARE BACK?
WHAT IF HODAG SAW SOMETHING HE SHOULDN'T?
WHAT IF HE INTERRUPTED A "SPECIAL DELIVERY?"
YOU BEEN TALKING TO THAT DOG LONG?

WHAT?!
NO...
MAYBE YOU MISSED IT.
STACY WOHL, FORMERLY KNOWN AS FRIGHTSIDE, FOUND DROWNED IN HER HOTEL ROOM.
TIME OF DEATH ABOUT TEN AM THIS MORNING.
AND...
TOSS
STREEETCH
WEIRD, RIGHT?
The Farmington Gazette
MARCH 5, 2023
Local Man Saves Priest
Onlooker Snaps camera at perfect moment
K. Olsen for the Gazette
THIS GUY "LOCAL MAN" WAS THERE AT THE EXACT SAME TIME.
SO, ANOTHER FORMER SUPERVILLAIN IS DEAD...
AND HERE YOU ARE WITHOUT MY WIFE TO VOUCH FOR YOU THIS TIME.
THIS ISN'T ME.
ARE YOU FUCKING WITH ME?
A HUNTING MASK ISN'T--
YOU'RE WEARING THE SAME COAT RIGHT NOW!
YOU CAN'T--
GAH!
WARNING
ELECTRIFIED

DID YOU JUST SHOOT ME WITH A FUCKING RUBBER BAND!?

I'M CROSSJACK, BITCH!
I DON'T MISS.
MOTHER-FUCKER--
STOP, OR I'LL SHOOT!


THEY DUG THIS QUARRY TOO DEEP...
HIT WATER. AND ALL OF A SUDDEN...
BANG!

...END OF THE LINE.

INGA SAID I COULD SEE THE BEST WAY TO USE ANYTHING.
A NUNCHUCK. A TOWN. MAYBE EVEN A FLOODED QUARRY.
PEPPER, DO YOU TRUST ME?

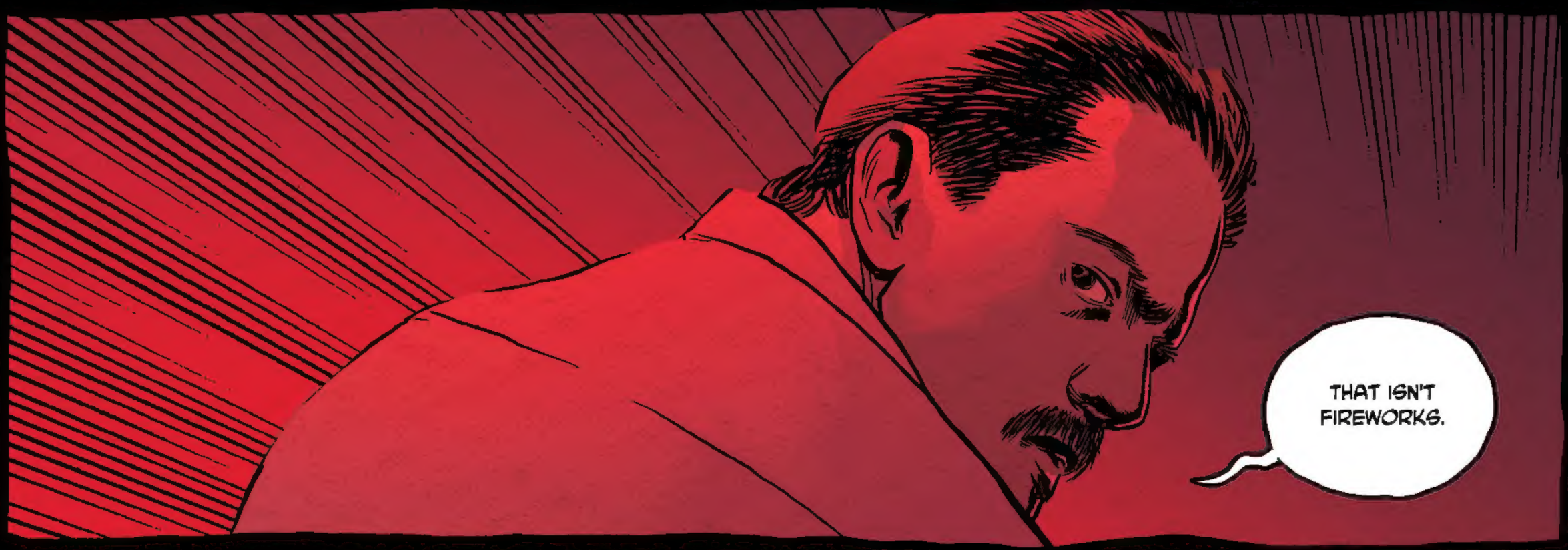
GOOD ENOUGH.
DON'T GO ANOTHER STEP, XAVER!
I'VE GOT A KEY, YOU IDIOT!
JUST STOP OR--

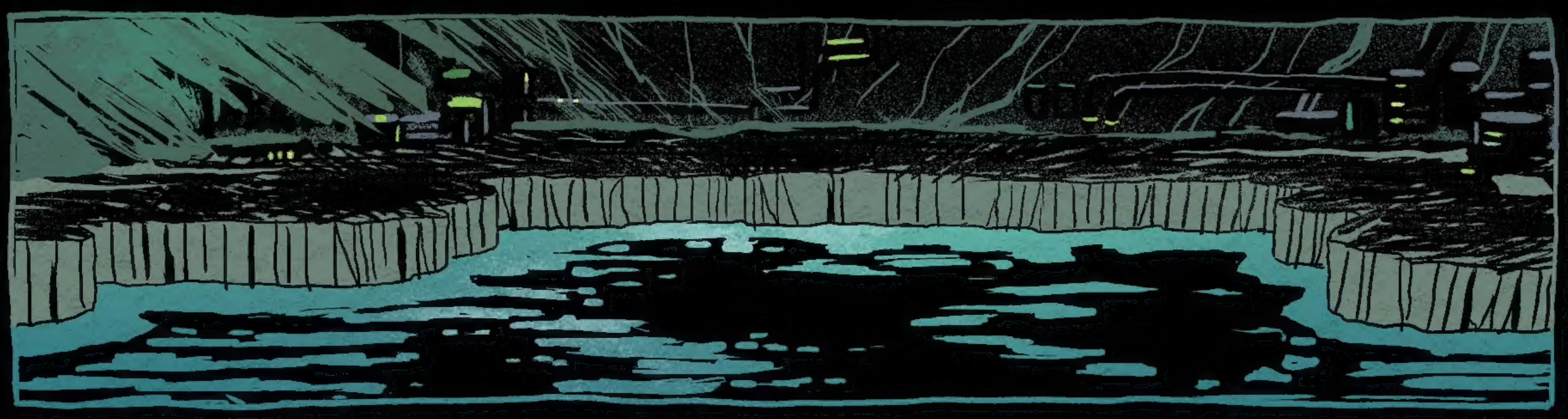
SPLASH

GODDAMMIT, YOU DUMB-ASS!
THAT HOLE IS TWENTY FEET DEEP AND FULL OF GHOST CURRENTS AND RUSTY METAL!

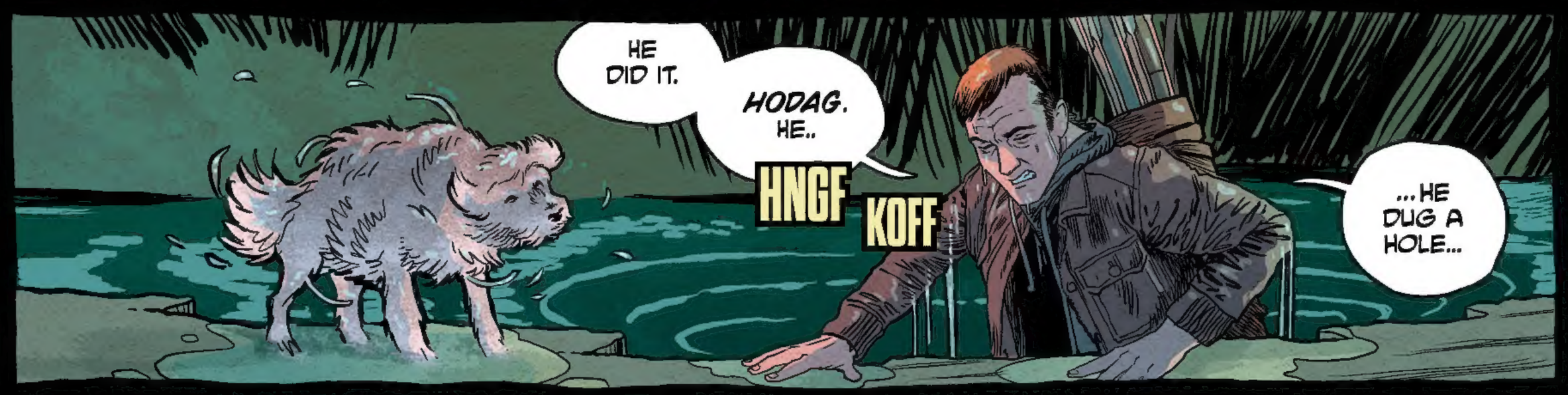
COME ON, MAN. COME UP!
INGA'LL NEVER LET ME LIVE IT DOWN IF I DROWN HER STUPID EX!

--THE HELL?

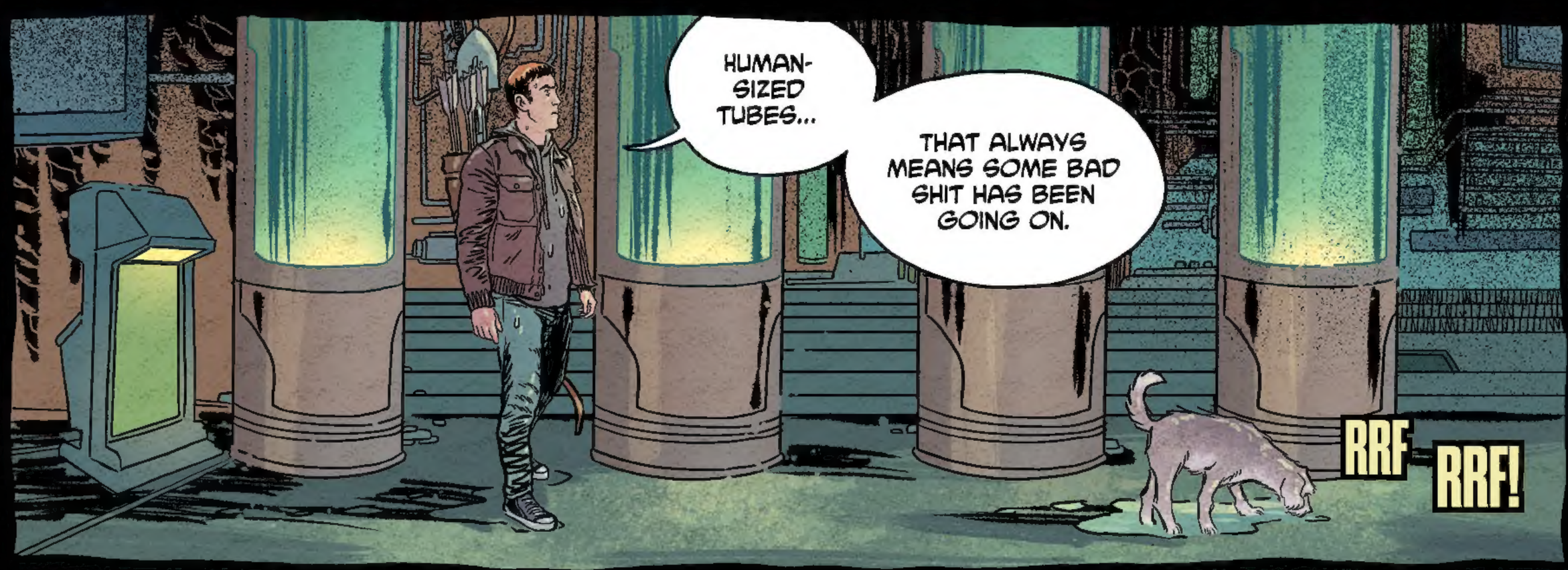

THAT ISN'T FIREWORKS.

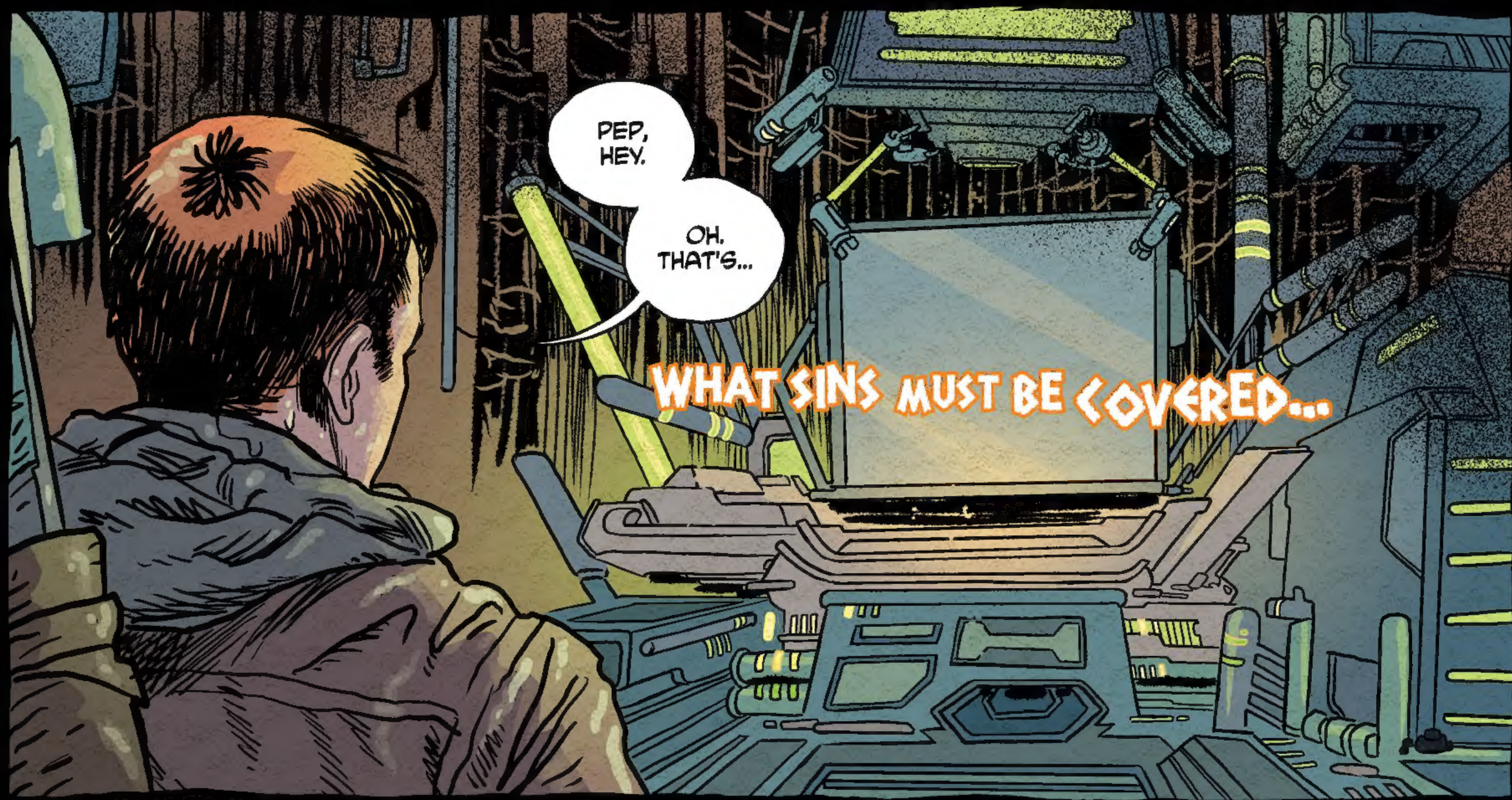


SPLASH


HE DID IT.
HODAG. HE..
HNGF
KOFF
...HE DUG A HOLE...

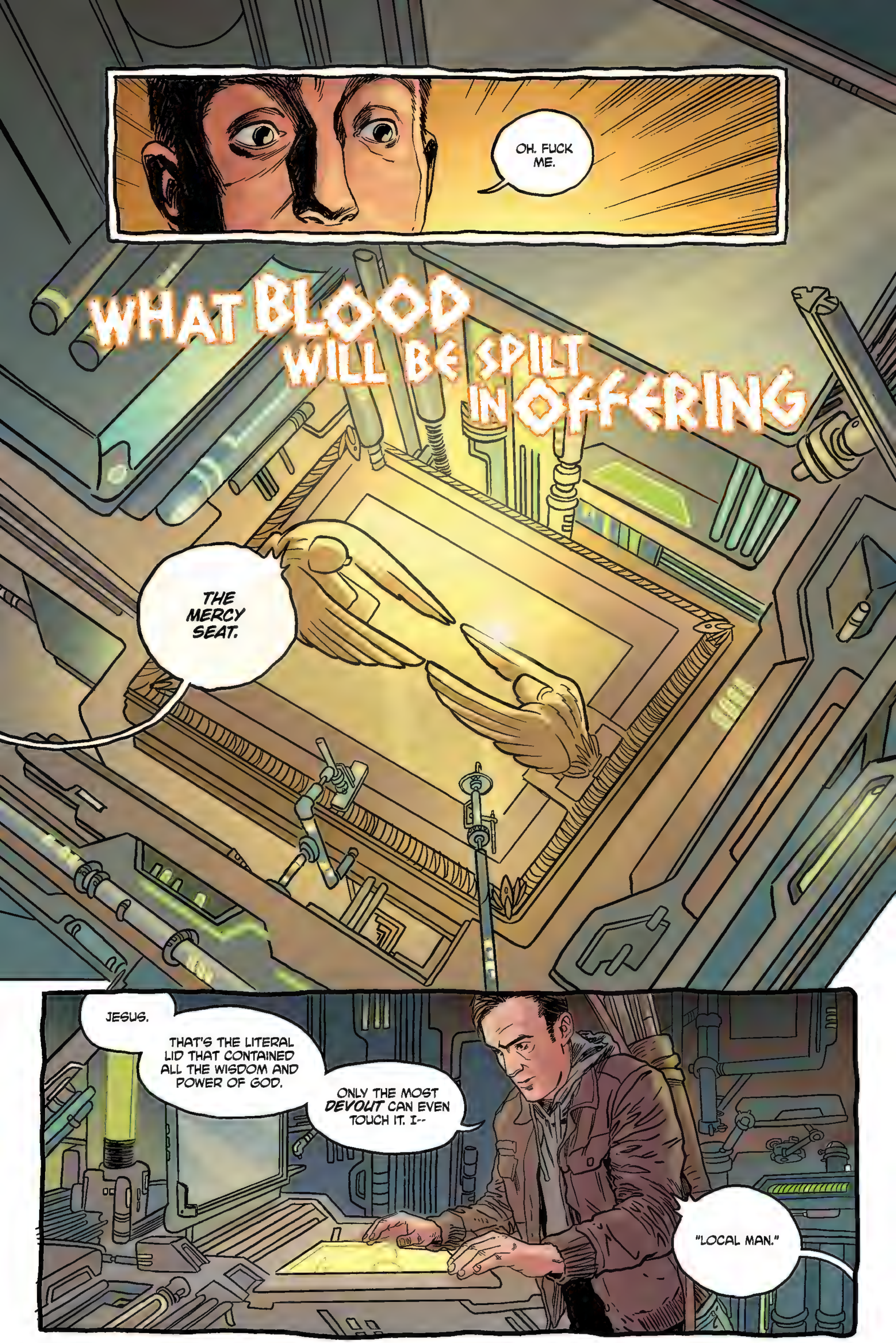
ALL THE WAY DOWN TO A SUPERVILLAIN LAIR...
RRF


HUMAN-SIZED TUBES...
THAT ALWAYS MEANS SOME BAD SHIT HAS BEEN GOING ON.
RRF-RRF!

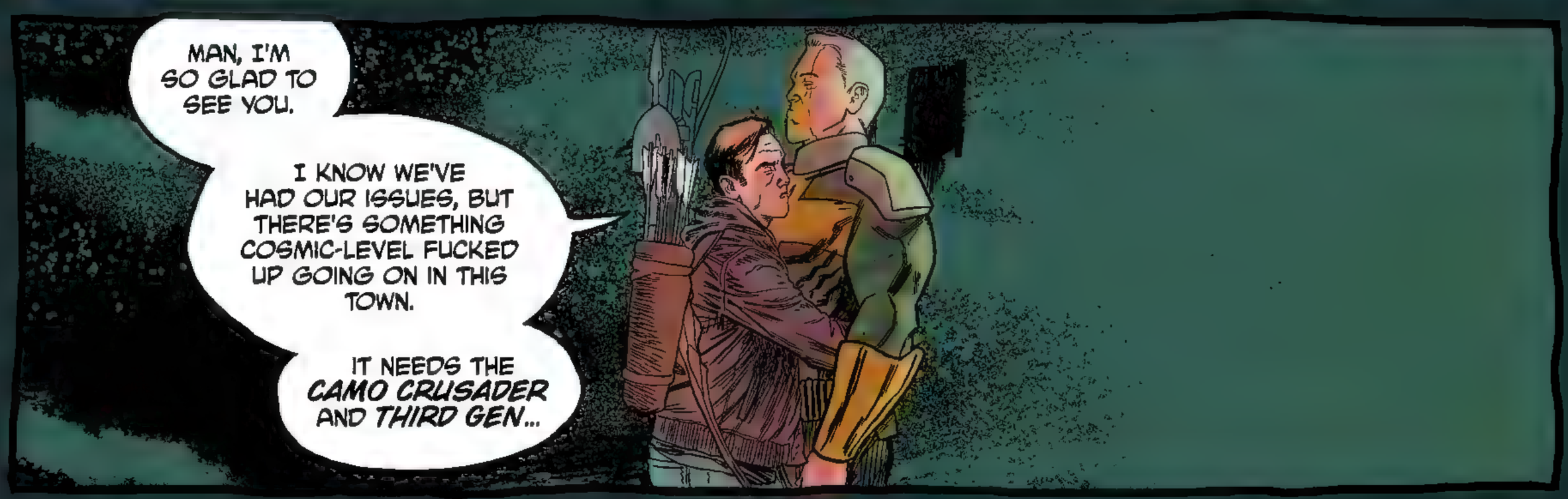

PEP, HEY.
OH. THAT'S...
WHAT SINS MUST BE COVERED...

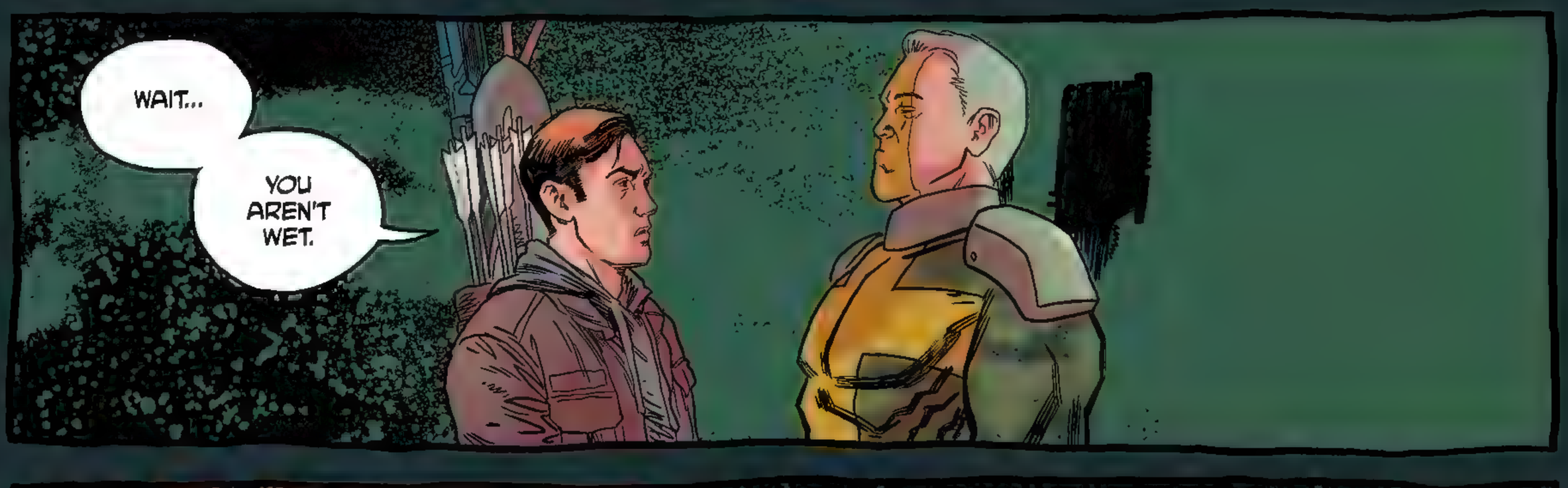
FAMILIAR.

FWAASH
...WHAT KNOWLEDGE CONTAINED
OH...


OH. FUCK ME.
WHAT BLOOD WILL BE SPILT IN OFFERING
THE MERCY SEAT.
JESUS.
THAT'S THE LITERAL LID THAT CONTAINED ALL THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD.
ONLY THE MOST DEVOUT CAN EVEN TOUCH IT. I--
"LOCAL MAN."

I THOUGHT THEY INFORMED YOU THAT YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO PLAY HERO ANYMORE.


MAN, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU.
I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR ISSUES, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING COSMIC-LEVEL FUCKED UP GOING ON IN THIS TOWN.
IT NEEDS THE *CAMO CRUSADER* AND *THIRD GEN*...


WAIT...
YOU AREN'T WET.

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

GHK

WAKOOM

I NEVER FIGURED YOU'D COME BACK HERE.

THOUGHT YOU'D END UP DOING CHEAP CARNIVAL TRICKS AT THE HALL OF HEROES LIKE THE OTHERS.

BUT YOU COULDN'T LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE OVER THIS?

A DEAD CRIMINAL?

UHN!

TSHING

WHY, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO ACTUALLY *DO* SOMETHING?

CHOOM

HNF!

I CAN ASK AND ASK ALL I WANT, BUT I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.

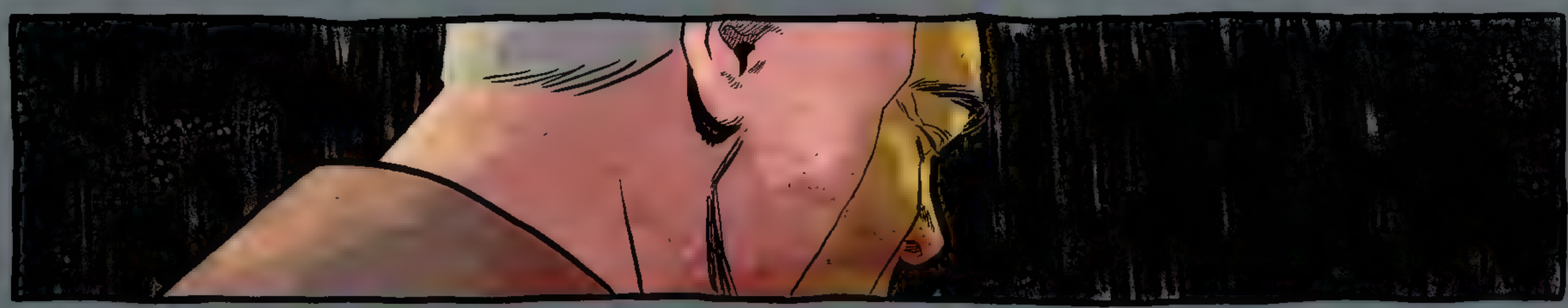
HNH?

PEPPER?

YOU HATE ME SO MUCH, YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE I DON'T LEAVE *ANYTHING* BEHIND ON EARTH.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

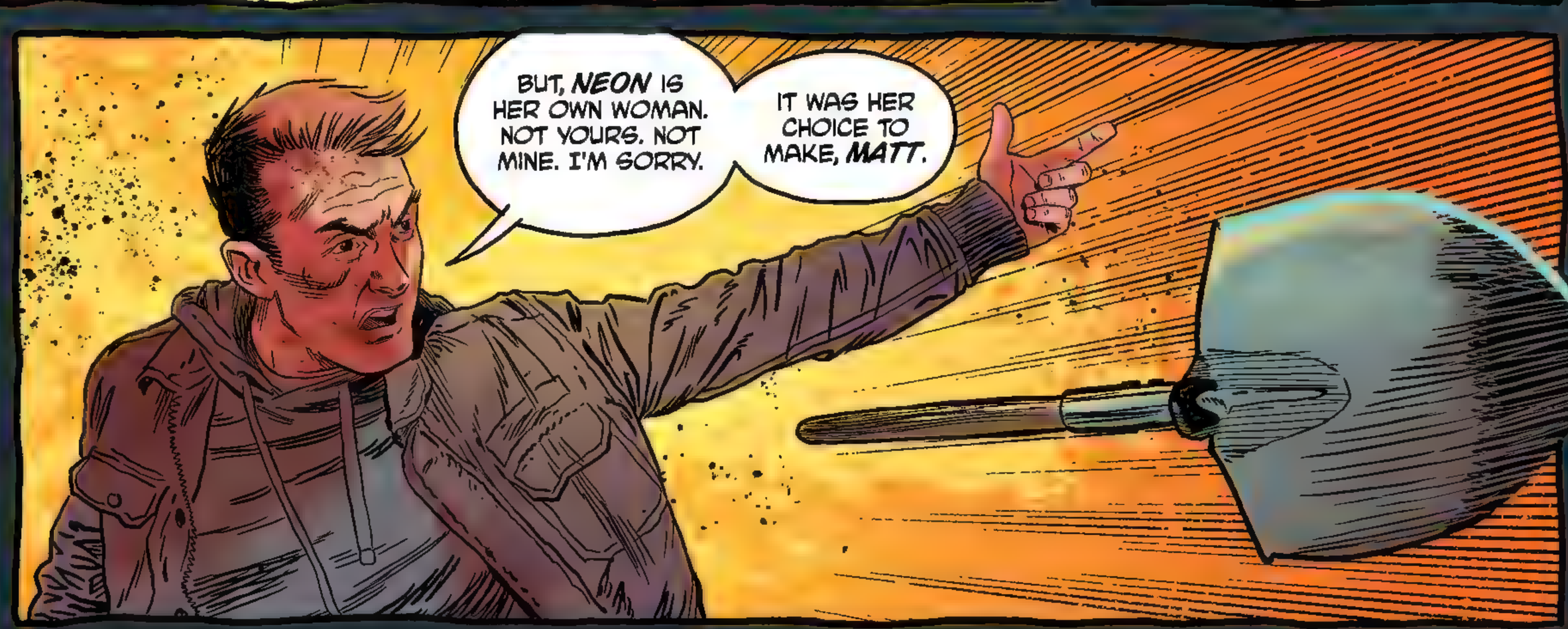
THOK THOK THOK



YOU STOLE MY FUTURE.

FNF
JESUS, MAN!
LOOK, I KNEW WHAT I DID... WHAT *WE* DID--
THROOM

I KNEW IT WASN'T GOING TO FLY WITH *THIRD GEN PR.* THAT IT WOULDN'T "POLL WELL."
I EVEN KNEW YOU'D PROBABLY FIRE ME BECAUSE I BROKE THE "MORALITY CLAUSE."


BUT, *NEON* IS HER OWN WOMAN. NOT YOURS. NOT MINE. I'M SORRY.
IT WAS HER CHOICE TO MAKE, *MATT*.

LIAR.
I GAVE YOU EVERYTHING, JACK. FRIENDSHIP. A PLACE ON THIRD GEN.
I WELCOMED YOUR FRIENDS AS MY OWN.
THOK

I HURT YOUR ENEMIES AS IF THEY'D SLIGHTED ME.
AND WHEN THE TIME CAME, YOU DIDN'T STAND FOR ME!
PSSST
HNF!

C'MON
C'MON
C'MON
ERICA WOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU!
YOU NEVER MISS, RIGHT?!

SHE DID THINGS FOR YOU SHE NEVER DID FOR ME!
PWOM

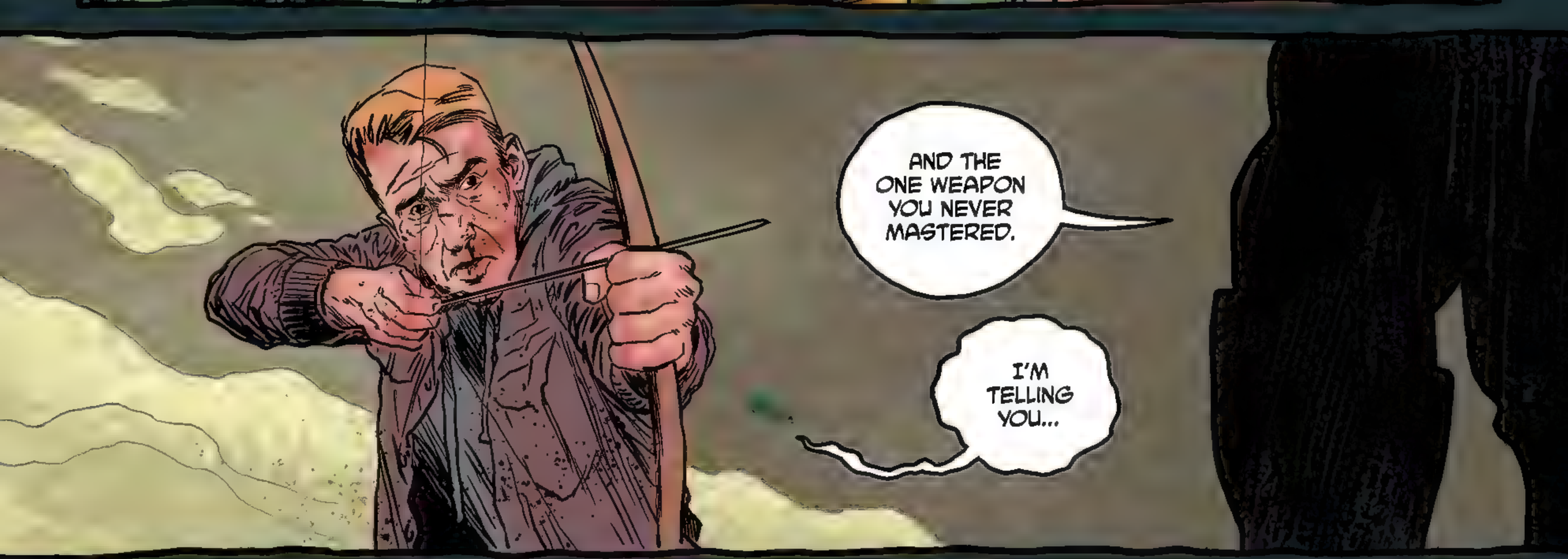
NO!
NO SHIELDS!
THIRD GEN OWNS CROSS-JACK!
NOW YOU HAVE TO BE PUNISHED, JACK.
BECAUSE YOU ROBBED ME OF THE ONE THING THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN ME HAPPINESS IN LIFE.

A CHILD FROM MY WIFE'S WOMB.
YOU STOLE MY SON, JACK!
KRAKOOM
NOW ALL OF THIS... THIS INVESTMENT.
THIS FINAL CHANCE TO PLANT SEEDS FOR TOMORROW. IMMORTALITY.
I HAVE NO ONE TO SHARE IT WITH.
"THE HEART OF MAN PLANS ITS WAY, BUT THE LORD ESTABLISHES HIS STEPS."
WISDOM ONCE CONTAINED BENEATH THAT LID.
YOU...
YOU STOLE THE MERCY SEAT...
I WOULD HAVE SHARED MY SON WITH YOU, YOU KNOW.
I WOULD HAVE SHARED ALL MY CHILDREN WITH YOU.
BUT MY STEPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.
HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH!

CAMO CRUSADER!
TURN AROUND SLOWLY!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ASSAULT AND TRESPASSING!
TRESPASS.
THE ONLY TRESPASSES HERE ARE THOSE DONE AGAINST ME BY A MAN I CALLED FRIEND.
AND NOW I HAVE TO ADD ANOTHER ONE, JACK.
YOU'VE MADE ME KILL AN OFFICER OF THE LAW.
PLEASE KNOW THAT I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT AND REVERENCE FOR YOUR PROFESSION...
PKOW
PKOW
PKOW
PTANG
PTANG
PTANG
STOP!
STOP!!
NNNUHH
...AND THE SACRIFICE YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE.
CCRNCH
AHHH!
MATT...

LET HIM GO.
NOW.

AH. THE *BOW AND ARROW.*
TOOL OF JEHOASH, KING OF ISRAEL.
HNNH.

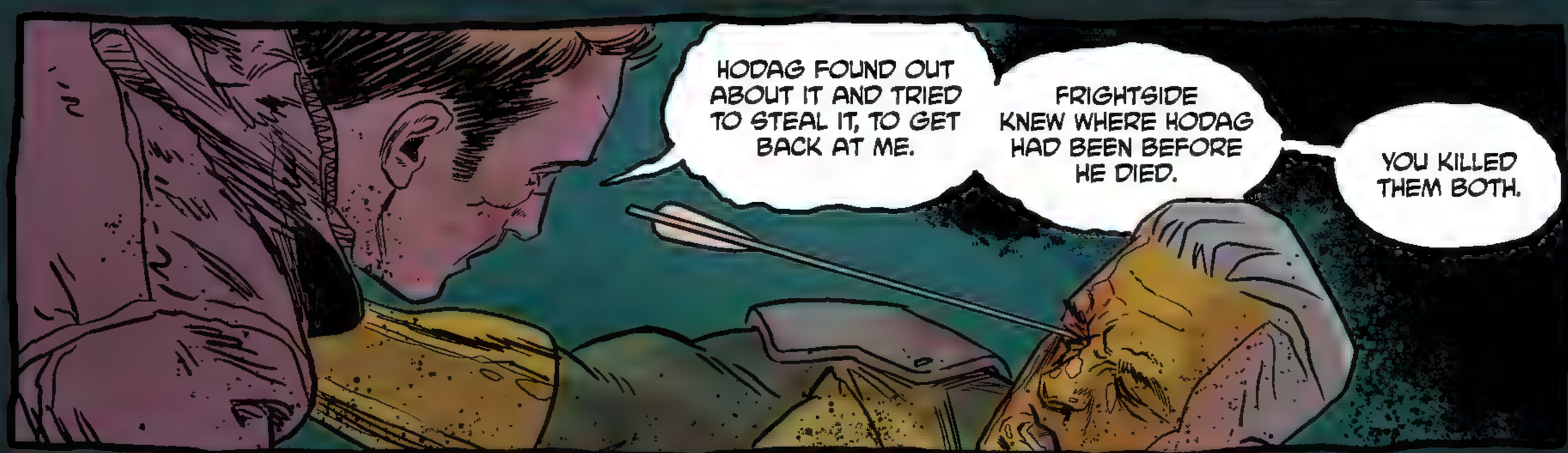

AND THE ONE WEAPON YOU NEVER MASTERED.
I'M TELLING YOU...

GO AHEAD.
LET HER RIP, SON.
YOU'LL PROBABLY HIT THE COP.
PLEASE! DON'T--

THOK
HHHH.
HHHHNUHH...
NHHHH
GHHH.

I... I GUESS YOU SHOWED...
I WAS AIMING FOR HIS HAND.

HE TOOK THE MERCY SEAT. ONLY THE MOST DEVOUT...
HE WAS GOING TO USE IT TO MAKE HIMSELF A...
A GOD OR SOMETHING.
WHATEVER THAT THING DOES WHEN YOU HOOK IT UP TO AN "APHEK ENGINE."


HODAG FOUND OUT ABOUT IT AND TRIED TO STEAL IT, TO GET BACK AT ME.
FRIGHTSIDE KNEW WHERE HODAG HAD BEEN BEFORE HE DIED.
YOU KILLED THEM BOTH.

NO.
I LEARNED MY LESSON, JACK. ALL OF MY...

ALL MY CHILDREN MUST NOW DO FOR THEMSELVES.

HNNH
WOAH, MAN. TAKE IT EASY.

HE KICKED THE LIVING SNOT OUT OF YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE IT *THAT* LONG.
WAIT. BRIAN...

WHERE'S MY DOG?

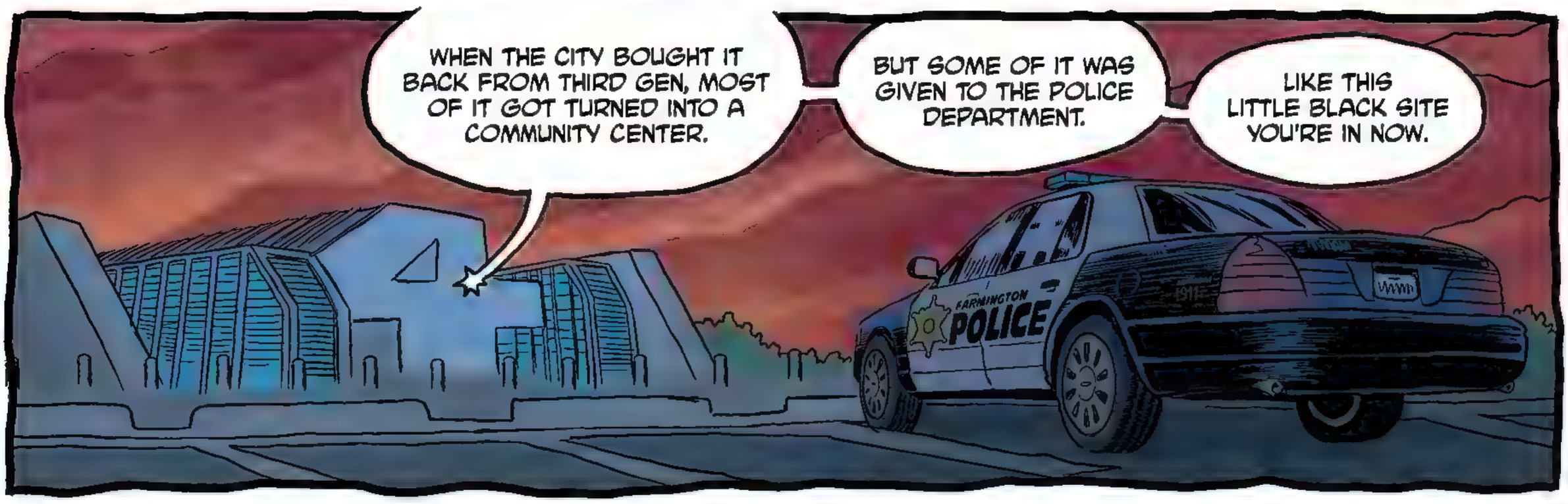
SHIT.

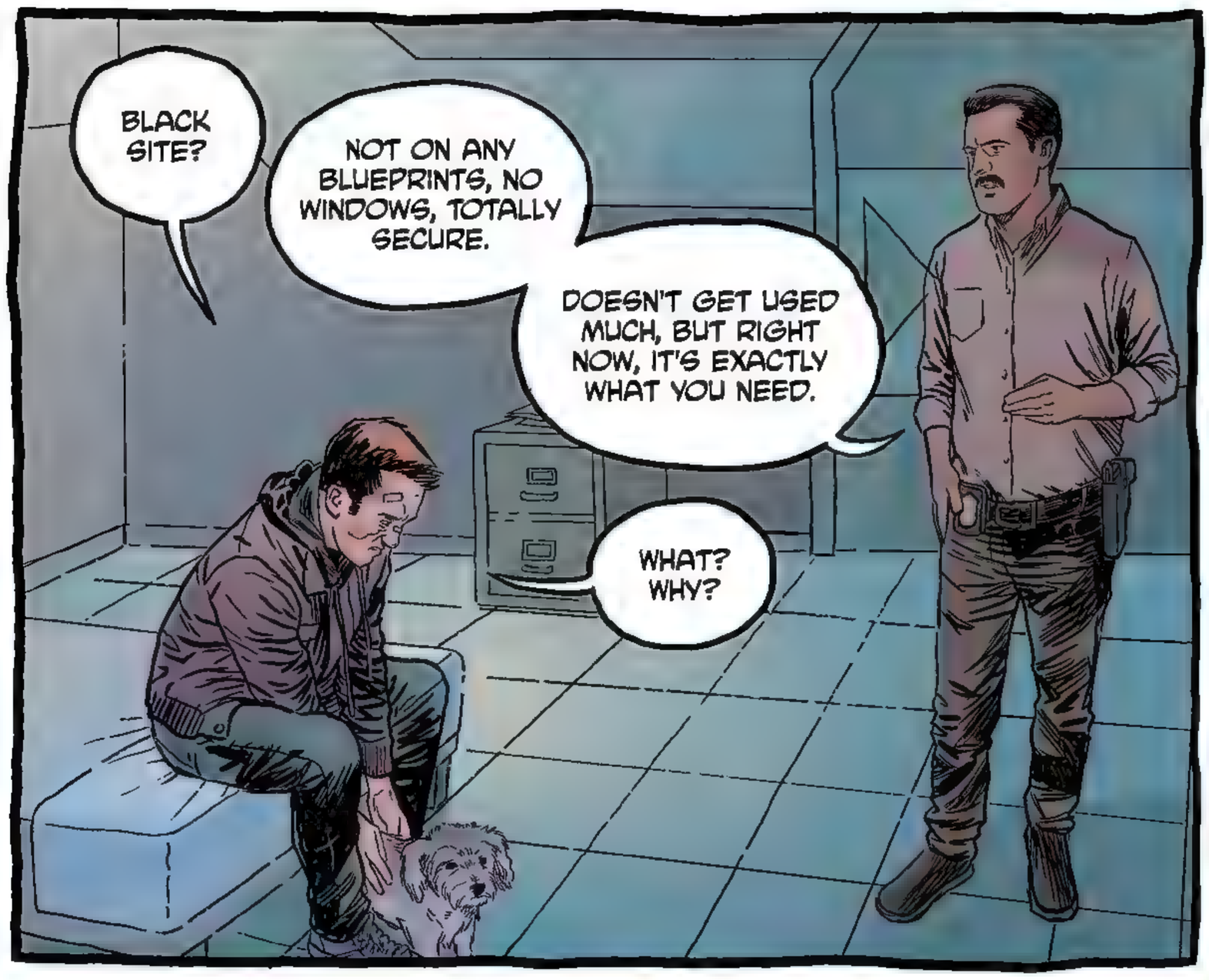
SLRP
SLRP
SLRP

HNNH.
SLRP
SLRP
SLRP

OW. AHH.
STOP, PEP.
STOP.
SLRP
SLRP
SLRP
AFTER YOU PASSED OUT, I FOUND HIM IN ONE OF THOSE TUBES.

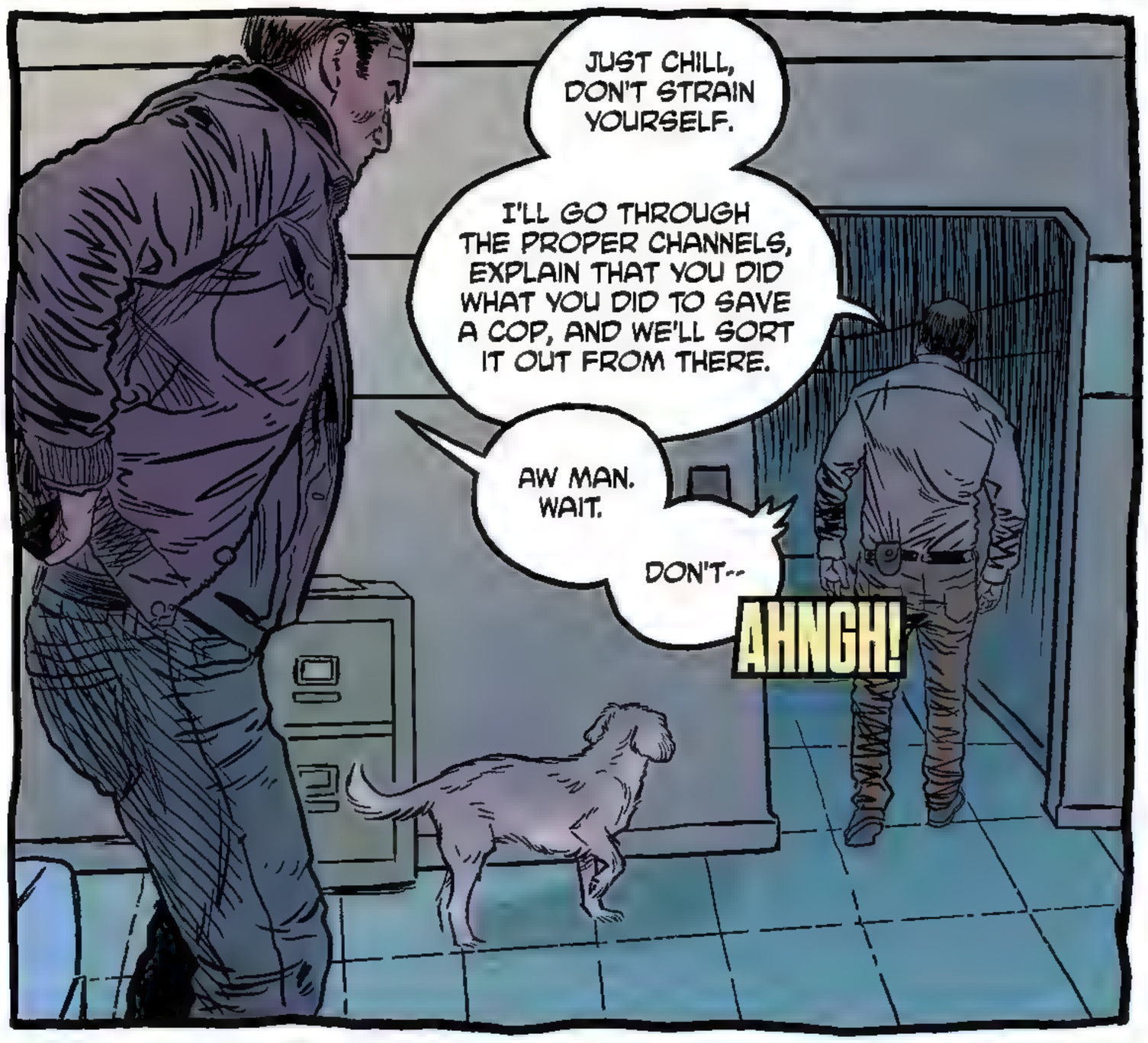
HE MUST'VE FIGURED HE WAS SAFER IN THERE THAN AROUND YOU TWO S.P.B.S OR WHATEVER.
GUESS HE'S SMARTER THAN I AM.
WHERE ARE WE?
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE IT?
WELCOME TO THE *4TH GEN TRAINING FACILITY.*

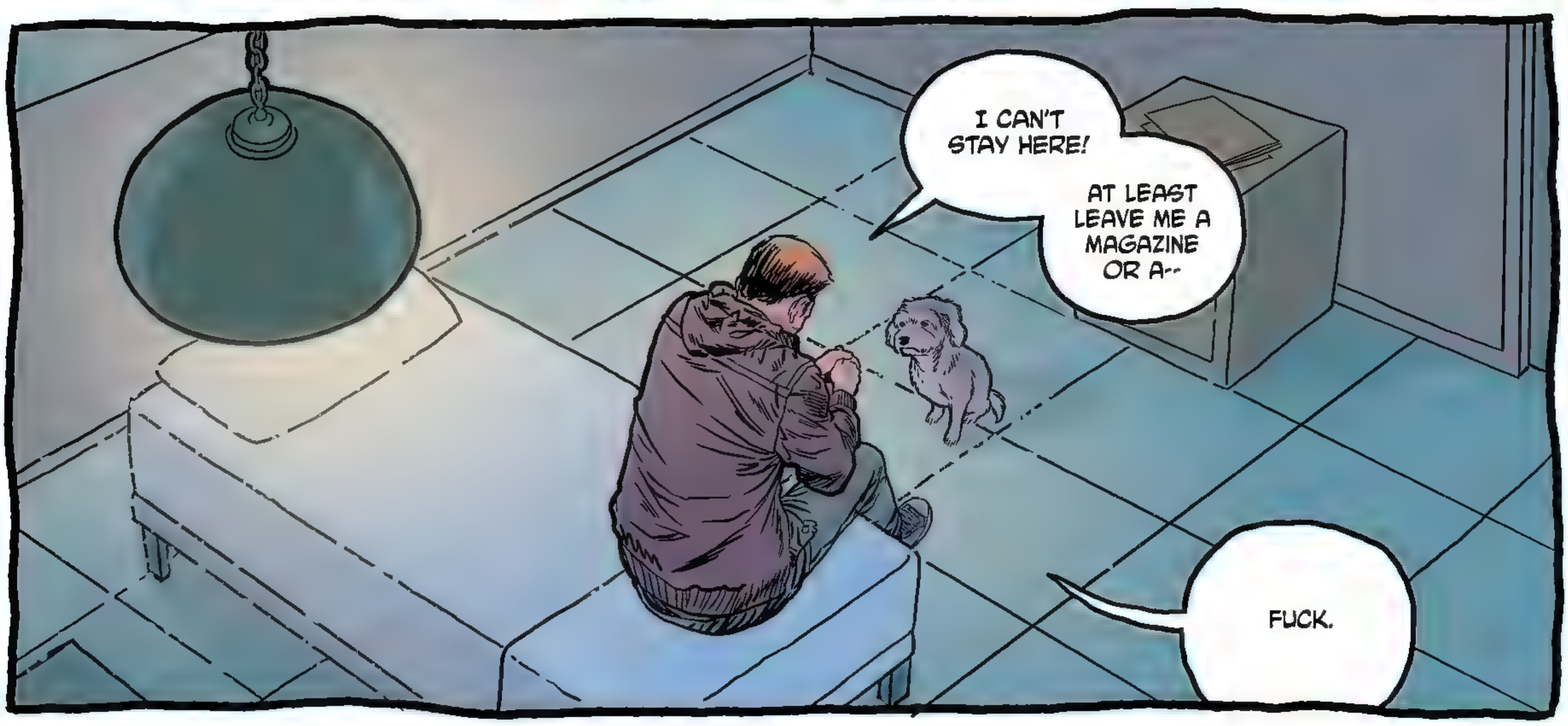

WHEN THE CITY BOUGHT IT BACK FROM THIRD GEN, MOST OF IT GOT TURNED INTO A COMMUNITY CENTER.
BUT SOME OF IT WAS GIVEN TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.
LIKE THIS LITTLE BLACK SITE YOU'RE IN NOW.
FARMINGTON POLICE


BLACK SITE?
NOT ON ANY BLUEPRINTS, NO WINDOWS, TOTALLY SECURE.
DOESN'T GET USED MUCH, BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED.
WHAT? WHY?

WE ALREADY DON'T LIKE YOU IN THIS TOWN, JACK.
WHEN PEOPLE FIND OUT YOU KILLED THE CAMO FUCKING CRUSADER, THEY'RE GOING TO LIKE YOU A WHOLE LOT LESS.

THEN WHY DO THEY HAVE TO KNOW?
YOU'RE A SUPERHERO. I'M A COP.
WE HAVE RULES.
I ALREADY CALLED IT IN.


JUST CHILL, DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF.
I'LL GO THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS, EXPLAIN THAT YOU DID WHAT YOU DID TO SAVE A COP, AND WE'LL SORT IT OUT FROM THERE.
AW MAN. WAIT.
DON'T--
AHNGH!


I CAN'T STAY HERE!
AT LEAST LEAVE ME A MAGAZINE OR A--
FUCK.

AH, CHRIST.
MATT.
FUCK, MAN.

HNH.
MATT...

4TH GEN TRAINING FACILITY.
THIS IS WHERE WE MET.
WHEN I WAS A 4TH GEN ROOKIE.
THIRD GEN BATTLEZONE

RECRUIT: SEASCAPE
RECRUIT: THE SLICK
I REMEMBER THESE OTHER KIDS TOO...
SOME PRETTY USEFUL ABILITIES...

...

HOLY SHIT. WAIT!
THE MERCY SEAT.
CAMO CRUSADER'S "CHILDREN"! HIS "INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW"...

"THE APHEK ENGINE COULD STEAL SUPERPOWERS AND GIVE THEM TO OTHER PEOPLE."

HEY.

FARMINGTON POLICE

VMMMMMMM

GHK!

SPECIAL DELIVERY.

SHUNK

"IT COULD MAKE AN 'INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW.'"

HE'S IN THERE, AIN'T HE?

NNNH.

"HOLY SHIT, PEP. I THINK..."

"I THINK I JUST SAVED THE DAY."

POLICE

I GOT SOMETHIN' FOR HIM TOO.

VMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM

TO BE CONTINUED

image info

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 361
Sometimes I wonder if I have too many opinions.

I've never been one of those people who works in entertainment who no one knows who they voted for. I've never been terribly good about keeping my viewpoints on life out of my fiction, whether it be something inherently political like Money Shot (about science and porn, and where they intersect in a world where facts are no longer a consensus) or something fantastical but full of the potential for allegory (one time I got yelled by fans at for having a bad guy "build a wall" in a He-Man comic, even though that's been part of the lore since way before that former guy showed up.)

And then sometimes I wonder why people think art is ever apolitical.

I know some creators who save their views on candidates and issues for their twitter pages, and a few more who don't put any real potentially controversial opinions anywhere. But, most everyone else I know, or know of, hide their view, sometimes not that subtly, in their comics work. McFarlane's views on organized religion have been on full display in SPAWN for 30 years. He made cool action figures out of his opinion that if there were a god and a devil, they'd basically be the same--big, uncaring middle managers who only work towards their own aggrandizement. Kirkman's view that humanity without society and rules becomes no more than the walking dead, waiting for imminent death, is like, you know...a whole thing. And, Tony and my disgust at the manipulation of rural Americans by politicians and their international corporate sponsors is an only slightly hidden within the pages of LOCAL MAN.

So, look, no one has to like my take on things. Hell, I don't even always like my viewpoint. But, we can't make stories that aren't about something.

And we can't make something **you** care about if **we** don't care about it.

So, please enjoy this, and Spawn and The Walking Dead, and everything else with the full understanding that it's all politics, even when it's zombies and angels, and power-stealing god boxes.

-Tim Seeley

STRAY DOGS
Tony's Image Comics hit about dogs, murder, and memory. This is the one where he showed us all he could do more than My Little Pony. Part noir, part horror, part Don Bluth. Co-created and drawn by Trish Forstner with colors by Local Man's own Brad Simpson!

REVIVAL
Tim's horror-noir about his own hometown, and what happens when the dead come back to life there. It's weird, dark, and kinda personal. Co-created and with art by the great Mike Norton.

HACK/SLASH
Tim's long running (almost 20 years?!) slasher comic about the horror hunters Cassie Hack, and Vlad with co-creator Stefano Caselli, and a host of co-creators. Sexy, exploitive, gory, and always heartfe lt. Available in a variety of formats but check out the super sexy Hack/Slash ominbi.

LOADED BIBLE
A series that ONLY Image would publish, about a clone of Jesus who fights vampires and an authoritarian theocracy in the future, conceived of by Tim and his brother Steve. Yeah, Eric Stephenson is still Tim's hero for picking this up. There's also a great sequel written by Steve Orlando.

HEXWARE
Tim's other new Image series with artist Zulema Scotto, featuring a housemaid android who BUYS a soul for the Devil. It's on sale now!

TORRENT
Brutal superhero action from Justin Greenwood, Marc Guggenheim and Rico Renzi. Issue 1 in stores now!

DIE! DIE! DIE!
Criminally underrated sci-fi/action/political satire from Robert Kirkman and Chris Burnham. Possibly the craziest, most frenzied art of Burnham's whole crazy, frenzied career. Read it all in 2 TPBs.

LOVE EVERLASTING
A romance comic by our friends Tom King and Elsa Charretier. But, I mean, sort of a romance. More of a horror really. See, you really can do anything you want at Image!

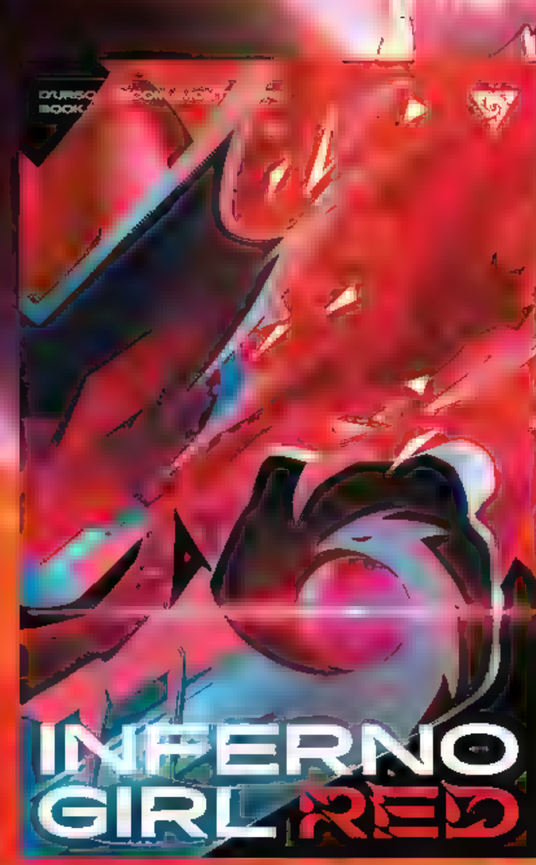
INFIDEL
A pretty terrifying horror comic by our friends Aaron Campbell and Pornsak Pichetshote. This thing is usually on lists of greatest horror stories ever.

SAVAGE DRAGON
As far as we're concerned, the gold standard of creator owned superhero books. Brutal, sexy, funny, and ever-changing. We all want to be Erik Larsen.

BURNOUTS
Back before the pandemic, our buddy Dennis Culver (Unstoppable Doom Patrol,) co-created this X-Files meets Half Baked thriller. Have your shop order the TPB if you missed it. Stoners v. space invaders!

EXPLORE THE

MASSIVE-VERSE



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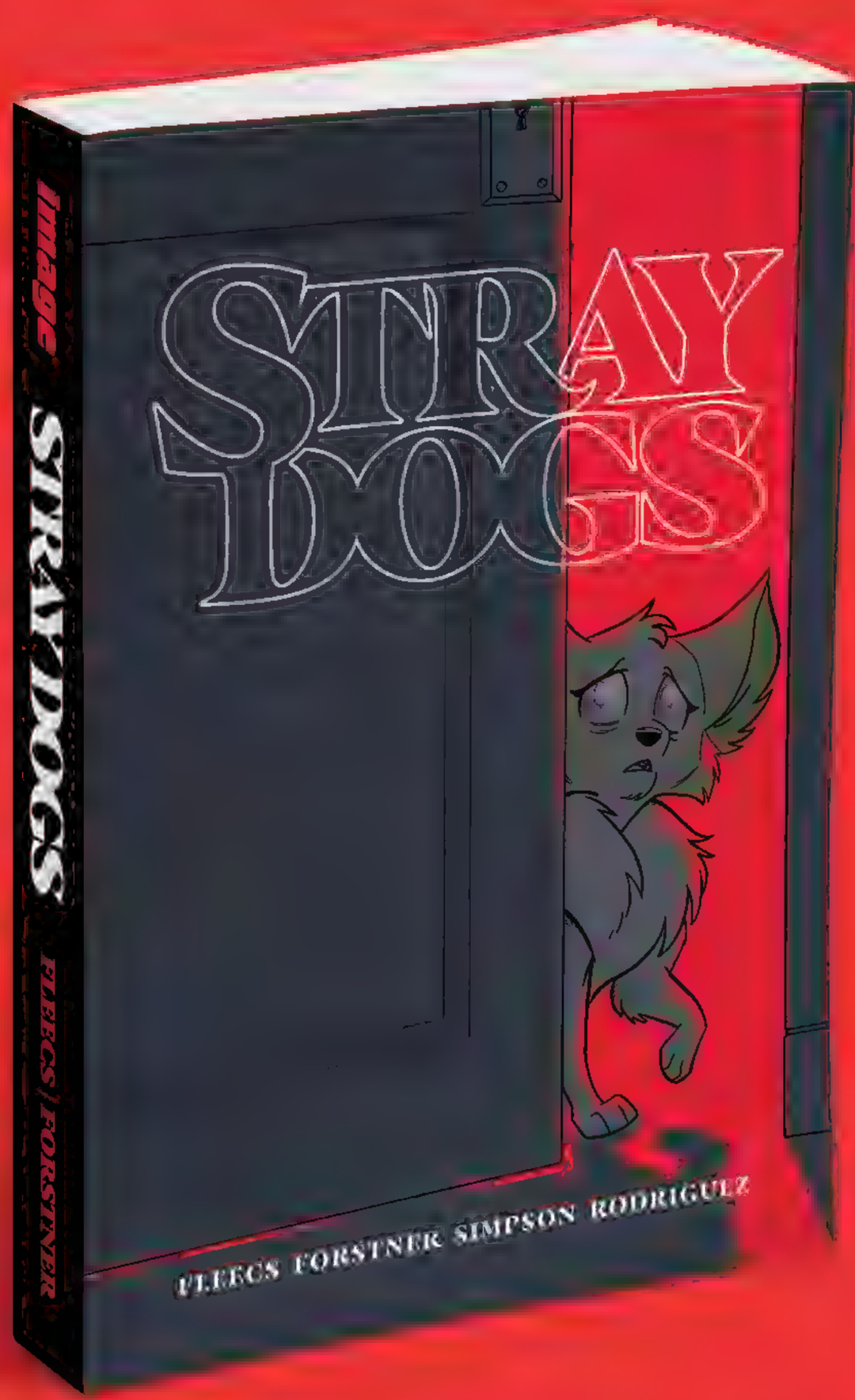

TONY FLEECS | TRISH FORSTNER

STRAY DOGS™

SEPTEMBER 2021

COLLECTS STRAY DOGS #1-5 | $16.99 US

ISBN: 978-1-5343-1983-7

"What do you get when you crossbreed *Silence of the Lambs* with *All Dogs Go to Heaven*? Well, you get Stray Dogs."

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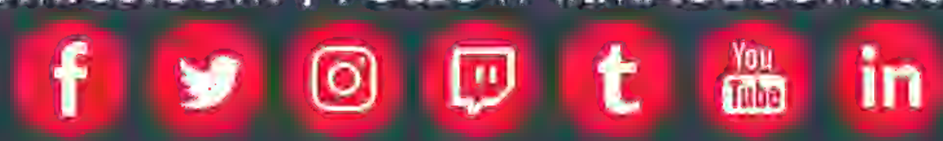

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FROM THE LOG OF THE CAMO CRUSADER

THE WAR ON KAOS ENDED

THIRD GEN AND THE STAR PACT WERE TRIUMPHANT.

THE HISHIN PEOPLE WERE GIVEN THEIR PLANET BACK.

WE SAID GOODBYE TO OLD ALLIES AND NEW FRIENDS.

PRAYERS WERE SHARED, AND THE WORD OF THE ONE GOD WAS SPREAD TO THOSE WHO WOULD HEAR IT.

HM. *INFINTEASE* THINKS THIS IS SUCH A STRANGE STORY.

YOUR GOD IMPREGNATED THE MAN JOSEPH'S WIFE?

WHAT IS THE LESSON OF THIS, *CAMOUFLAGE CRUCIBLE*?

MAYBE THE STORY ISN'T MEANT FOR INTERSTELLAR SEX ANDROIDS.

HISHINI SPACECRAFT ARE SMALL AND SPEEDY.

SO THIRD GEN BROKE INTO TWO GROUPS FOR THE TRIP BACK TO EARTH.

PROBLEMS BEGAN SOON AFTER LAUNCH IN THE SHIP I SHARED WITH *CROSSJACK* AND *NEON*.

LIKELY, THERE WAS UNNOTICED DAMAGE TO THE SURGE-DRIVE AFTER THE SIEGE OF TISHAMADIN, BUT MY HISHINI IS WEAK

THE ARTIFICIAL GUIDE'S LAST ACTION BEFORE ITS CIRCUITS MELTED WAS TO DIRECT THE TUMBLING SHELL TOWARDS A SMALL VIOLET AND TEAL ORB JUST OUTSIDE THE RINGS OF SOME MASSIVE GAS GIANT

NEON USED HER POWERS TO CLEAR ANY OBSTACLES IN OUR WAY TO ENSURE THE SOFTEST LANDING POSSIBLE

GOD, AS EVER, REMINDS ME THAT MY WIFE IS A REMARKABLE WOMAN.

WE NOW FOUND OURSELVES ON A SAVAGE, UNTAMED WORLD

UNSURE IF OUR COMPATRIOTS WERE AWARE WE WERE NO LONGER BESIDE THEM, OR IF THEY WOULD EVER REACH EARTH THEMSELVES.

AND THEN THE SERPENTS ATTACKED.

THOSE FIRST WEEKS WERE THE HARDEST BEFORE WE CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE PREDATORS' FEEDING HABITS, OR FOUND THAT THE MEMBRANES IN THEIR STOMACHS COULD BE USED TO FILTER WATER.

HISHINI RATIONS RAN LOW AND THE MEGAPEDE'S FLESH WAS TOO SHARP TO SWALLOW.

THE NIGHTS WERE FILLED WITH HORRORS.

THE LOW SUN WEAKENED ERICA'S POWERS CONSIDERABLY, WHICH MEANT...

THE DAYS WERE NEARLY AS DARK.

IT'S FINE, CAMO. JUST GO.

CROSSJACK. YOU'RE WITH ME. LEAVE YOUR SHIELD.

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

TAKE YOUR WEAPONS. THY QUIVER AND THY BOW.

TODAY WE HUNT.

WOULDN'T *SHOT RODS* BE MORE EFFECTIVE?

SHOT RODS ARE NEARLY OUT OF JUICE.
LUCKILY, WE HAVE THE MARKSMAN WITH US AND NOT THE ONE WHO'S HALF JET.
THE LORD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EACH OF US.
HEY, AIR RAIDER COULD AT LEAST MAYBE FLY YOU OFF THIS ROCK.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BREAK THIS TO YOU, SIR BUT...
I CAN'T SHOOT A BOW FOR SHIT.

JACK "X MARKS THE SPOT" XAVER CAN'T SHOOT A BOW AND ARROW?
IT'S THE *ONE* THING I CAN'T SHOOT.
BROKE MY DAD'S HEART.

MAN...
DAD...
I'M SO FAR AWAY FROM HIM. EVEN FARTHER THAN USUAL.

I MET YOUR FATHER. GOOD MAN.
CATHOLIC. HE WAS PROUD OF YOU.
THE FATHER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN REJOICES IN HIM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW RIGHTEOUS I AM.
BUT I CAN SAY FOR SURE, I *NEVER* SAW HIM REJOICE.

WE COULD NEVER CONNECT.
HE WOULD'VE LOVED THIS THOUGH.
HE LOVED BOWHUNTING.
I... I JUST WANTED TO MAKE HIM PROUD...

"I WAS THIRTEEN, THE LAST TIME WE WENT OUT."
"IT WAS LIKE THIS. I MEAN, LESS MORTAL DANGER. NOT AS MUCH SLIME BUT..."

WE SAT IN THAT FIELD ALL MORNING IN COMPLETE SILENCE.
NOT THAT HE WAS SUPER CHATTY OTHERWISE BUT THIS WAS...
IT WAS DIFFERENT. WE JUST SAT TOGETHER IN LIKE...
QUIET HARMONY.

MY DAD SAW THE BUCK BEFORE I DID. HE JUST PUT HIS HAND ON MY SHOULDER.
AND I STEADIED MY LITTLE COMPOUND BOW. ARROW NOCKED...

"AND I FELT IT..."
"THE THING I ALWAYS FEEL, IT'S LIKE A LITTLE JOLT WHEN EVERY-THING'S LINED UP."
"IT CLICKED IN."

"I LOOKED THAT BUCK IN THE EYE AND..."

AND I WEPT.

I JUST FELL APART RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF MY DAD.

LIKE...

I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL SOMETHING FOR...Y'KNOW...

SHHH...

BY THE TIME HE COULD STEADY HIS OWN ARROW, THE DEER HAD HEARD ME FUSSING AND RUN OFF.

DAD DIDN'T EVER TRY TO TAKE ME OUT THERE AGAIN.

I COULDN'T SHOOT EVEN A NERF ARROW AFTER THAT. THE THING I FEEL WHEN THE SHOT'S RIGHT...

IT'S LIKE IT'S DISCONNECTED.

I CAN KICK THIS PEBBLE THROUGH THAT TINY KNOTHOLE UP THERE WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY.

BUT HAND ME A STICK WITH A STRING TIED TO IT AND-

SHHH...

DON'T DESPAIR, SON.

WE EACH HAVE OUR PURPOSE.

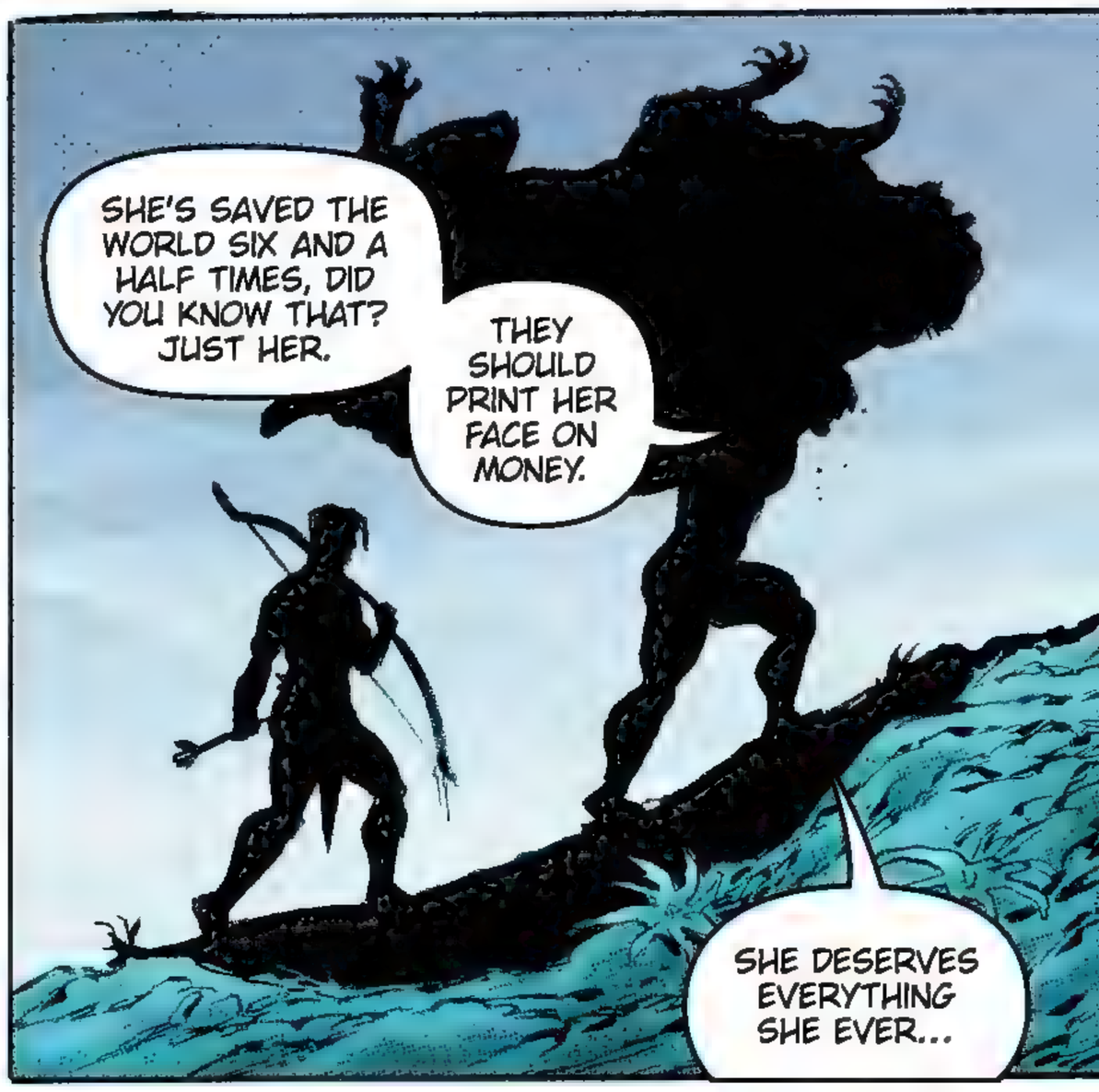
SSSSSS-

THOK

I'M... I'M SORRY, MAN.
THIS ALIEN ATMOSPHERE'S MESSING WITH MY EMOTIONS OR SOMETHING.
SPEAKING OF: THERE'S NO WAY ERICA CAN KEEP UP HER VEGAN THING FOR MUCH LONGER OUT HERE...
SHE IS STRONGER THAN YOU THINK.

THE WAY I LOVE HER, JACK. I WORSHIP THAT WOMAN.
SHE'S JUST... SHE'S PURE. NOT PURE LIKE SHE'S INNOCENT...
I'M NOT A CREEP.
PURE LIKE SHE'S UNCUT. RAW. SHE'S 100%.
SHE'LL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT'S WHAT. NO MATTER THE COST.
I MEAN, YEAH... SHE'S-

SHE TOLD ME THE TWO OF YOU KISSED.
OH...
CAMO- I MEAN, MATTHEW, I DIDN'T...


SHE'S SAVED THE WORLD SIX AND A HALF TIMES, DID YOU KNOW THAT? JUST HER.
THEY SHOULD PRINT HER FACE ON MONEY.
SHE DESERVES EVERYTHING SHE EVER...

AND YET, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I CANNOT GIVE HER.
THE TEMPLAR TONIC THAT GAVE ME MY POWERS...
IT TOOK FROM ME ALSO.

BULLETS BOUNCE OFF ME. HIT ME WITH A TRUCK, I CAN'T FEEL IT.
BUT NEITHER CAN I FEEL IT WHEN MY WIFE CARESSES MY CHEEK OR MY...
JACK...
I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME...

AND SO I ASKED GOD'S PURPOSE FOR US.
IF THERE WAS A RESPONSE, IT WAS DROWNED IN THE CRIES OF FEATHERED DOGS AND THE MOANING OF MY WIFE.
BUT MAYBE I KNOW THE ANSWER TO INFINITEASE'S QUESTION NOW.
MAYBE MY PURPOSE ISN'T TO BE LIKE CHRIST.
MAYBE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HIS FATHER.
END TRANSMISSION.
FROM THE LOG OF THE CAMO CRUSADER.
NEXT ISSUE: HOMECOMING

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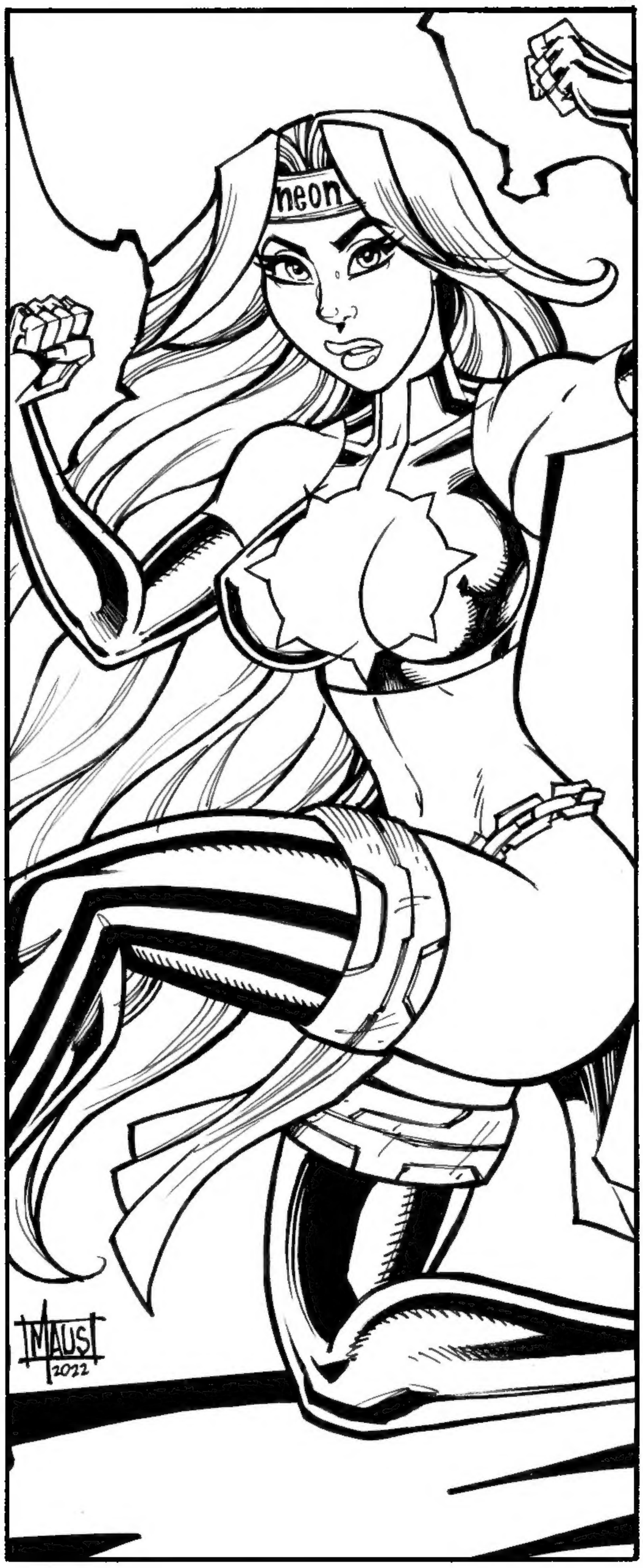
"LOCAL MAN"



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